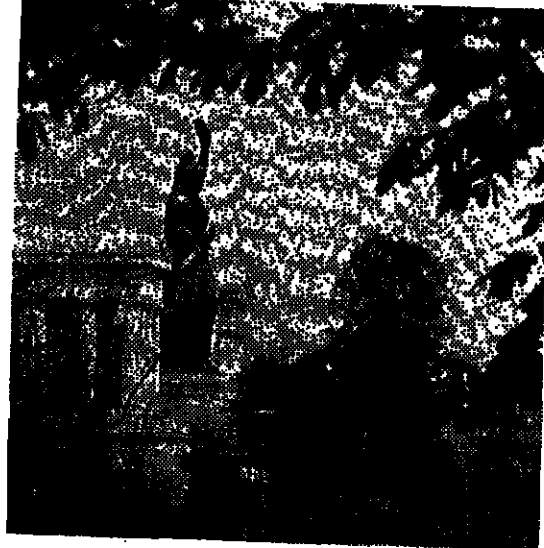




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The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Hamburg, 6 May 1971
Fifth Year - No. 473 - By air

Bonn's Ostpolitik dangles unhappily in the air

Handelsblatt

Bonn is going to have to view its Ostpolitik as a longer-term strategy. It was anticipated after the conclusion of the Moscow and Warsaw treaties.

The delay does, however, provide us with an opportunity of reappraising the aims of policy towards the Eastern Bloc and taking possible consequences into account.

Intermediate stock-taking of this kind does not, on the other hand, necessarily mean that the Brandt/Scheel administration's Ostpolitik has proved a mistake from the word go.

A leading Cabinet Minister, Helmut Schmidt, recently, talked in terms of eastern policy hanging by a thread. Even though it may not be fully shared by the entire government this view is nonetheless accurate.

It gives the lie to Chancellor Brandt's encouraging words about positive aspects of the Soviet paper on Berlin and the optimistic comments of Foreign Minister Scheel to the effect that a satisfactory Berlin settlement may yet transpire before the year is out.

At the moment painting the situation in glowing colours is inappropriate whatever the motives. The sober truth is that Ostpolitik is in the process of stagnating.

From this three questions follow: What signs of stagnation are in evidence? What reasons indicate that the Kremlin's attitude has grown less open to compromise and might not Moscow have been expected to be unyielding last year?

Last year the Federal government in Bonn had every reason for assuming that the Soviet Union would do something about Berlin after the signing of the two treaties with Eastern Bloc countries. Then came December and the Polish

but there can be no escaping the fact that Moscow's aims in the Four-Power talks are a far cry from those of the West.

An assessment of the Soviet Berlin paper, which was recently published in extracts in the Polish newspaper *Zycie Warszawy*, clearly reveals three goals that the Kremlin will be bent on achieving at the talks.

The first is general rejection of a Federal presence in Berlin (Bundestag sessions in the old Reichstag building and offices of Bonn government agencies in the Western half of the city).

The alternative proposed by the Soviet Union is the appointment of a Federal government representative in West Berlin, an envoy whose credentials will first be vetted by the Four Powers.

The second goal is establishment of West Berlin as a separate political entity and the third recognition of the GDR.

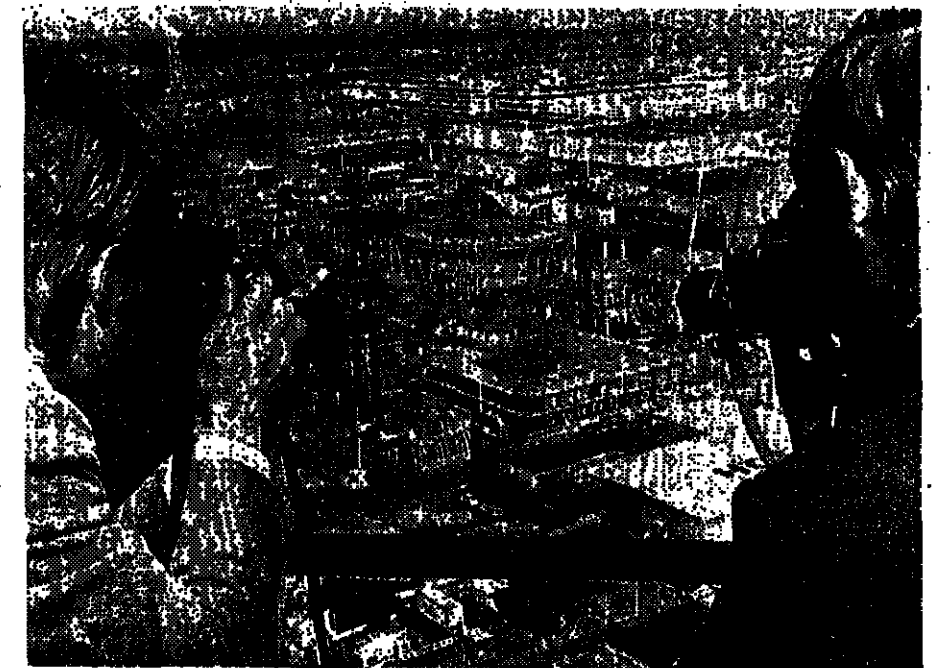
The Soviet Union has probably leaked its views in order to counter the impression that it may simply be stonewalling on Berlin without having any real intention of reaching agreement.

Moscow can now hardly be expected to revise its own point of view completely so as to reach agreement with the three Western powers either, for that matter.

In all probability both sides will have to back down on one point or another of their declared aims if agreement is to be reached at all on Berlin. The search for a solution will thus self-evidently be tougher and more protracted.

What reasons indicate that the Kremlin's attitude has grown less open to compromise and might not Moscow have been expected to be unyielding last year?

Last year the Federal government in Bonn had every reason for assuming that the Soviet Union would do something about Berlin after the signing of the two treaties with Eastern Bloc countries. Then came December and the Polish



Fair view

A view of the Hanover Fair site at which 5,768 exhibitors from 33 nations have taken stands. The Fair was opened on 22 April by Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller. (Photo: dpa)

unrest and a matter of months later it is clear that this open unrest is having far greater repercussions in the East, particularly for Communist leaders, than could have been imagined in the West.

Since the beginning of this year the Kremlin has reverted to a tougher line towards the West and this country was of course the first to feel the cooler gusts.

It is doubtful that the Kremlin is the sole driving force behind this change. The Polish unrest added fuel to the fire of East Berlin's ambitions to prevent the Eastern Bloc from establishing more cordial relations with the West.

For years the GDR has been at the vanguard of defiance in Europe and the Moscow and Warsaw treaties must have been a bitter disappointment for East Berlin, particularly as they disregarded many of its demands.

A tricky situation such as ensued all over the Eastern Bloc as a result of the Polish unrest was bound to be gird to the mill of politicians in East Berlin who have always wanted to set themselves off from the West yet are not prepared to deal with the Federal government until full diplomatic relations have been established by Bonn.

The GDR now clearly proposes with the aid of a Soviet Union, "enlightened" and worried by the course of events in Poland, to achieve aims unfulfilled in the Moscow and Warsaw treaties by means of the Berlin talks.

East Berlin, then, is bringing influence to bear on Soviet tactics. At the same time Soviet foreign policy has again proved to be bloc policy. The Soviet Union revises its approach every time

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Federal league football and England

What are the reasons for delay? What is the action would the Federal government in Bonn be best advised to take in the circumstances?

The focal point of the entire policy at present is Berlin. Two papers on the possibility of improving the situation in around Berlin now exist, a joint West and East document.

It would be a mistake to make light of differences between the two as posed in black and white. A certain degree of flexibility and a conceivable compromise might just be in the offing.

CDU win Schleswig-Holstein state election

Schleswig-Holstein's new Premier is Gerhard Stoltenberg. He and the Christian Democrats are the unquestionable winners of the state elections. The Free Democrats and right-wing extremists are the clear losers.

The bright light of public interest that has shone on the political scene in Schleswig-Holstein in the course of a long, tough election campaign will soon go out.

With the best will and plans in the world the new state government is strictly limited in the amount of influence it can wield and the likelihood is that it will fall to fill the headlines to anything like the same extent at any stage during the next four years.

What was special about these elections, the state elections this year apart from the council elections in Bremen, was

neither the local political scene nor the policy will Kiel pursue over the next four years? nor the direct national consequences (a possible shift in power in the Bundestag, the country's Upper House).

In both these respects the elections in Hesse, Bavaria, Berlin and the Rhineland-Palatinate were at least as interesting, if not more so.

What has really been significant about the Schleswig-Holstein elections is something the extent of which cannot as yet be assessed – the influence it has exercised on the Social Democrats (SPD), one of our two major parties.

The electoral outcome will exercise a strong influence on the relationship between the party leadership and the majority of its rank and file and the left wing.

Jochen Steffen, the Schleswig-Holstein SPD leader, can be taken to symbolise all left-wing Social Democrats, whether they be old-school Socialists of Hesse South or the rebellious *Jugendstaatsisten*.

A man who sounds more like an ideologue than a tactician, more like a political scientist than a politician, a man who frankly and firmly admits to being a Socialist, Jochen Steffen faced sober, conservative Christian Democrat, Gerhard Stoltenberg in the campaign.

The SPD campaign was Steffen's campaign, the election results are Steffen's. Socialist policies have been seen to be not without effect on at least the electorate of Schleswig-Holstein.

Yet the Social Democrats would be ill-advised to come to premature conclusions. There is call for neither satisfaction nor disappointment and a tougher and more intolerant line.

As a major party in a pluralistic society the Social Democrats can only succeed by means of tolerating pluralism of political opinion within their own ranks.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 April 1971)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Chinese dragon courts the American eagle

Werner Stadt-Annalger

The Chinese ideogram for table tennis is based on the sign for the army, a British journalist has discovered. Maybe, he suggested, this accounts for the earnest with which the Chinese play ping-pong, a sport in which they rank among the world's best.

The American and Canadian table tennis players who recently returned from a triumphant tour of China did not gain the impression that they were being treated in a military or warlike fashion, though.

"I have been in 89 countries in my time," one of the entourage commented, "and I have never been made to feel so welcome as here."

Seldom has so much been written and surmised about a state visit, let alone about an encounter of this kind between sportsmen who can not even claim to be well-known.

American public opinion, the Press and TV at least, noted with surprise and evident relief that China too is populated by people and that Chou En-lai, Premier of the People's Republic, is even prepared to go so far as exchange words with an American hippie.

Eighteen thousand people gave the American visitors a rip-roaring welcome in the Peking stadium and the posters proclaiming "Down with American Imperialism" had been replaced by others wishing long life to unity among peoples of the world.

It is hard to judge as yet whether the sceptical attitude Washington has adopted in view of the enthusiasm shown by the general public is a fair reflection on the government's opinion of developments in relations with Peking.

The United States and China have a special relationship that has arisen in the course of a long and chequered history. Odium and sympathy are equally likely

to develop and observers of the American scene have seen for themselves how the one can change into the other.

What, though, are the motives of the government concerned at this particular juncture and what results may ensue?

Over the last few months, since the end of the Cultural Revolution, China's foreign policy has been more active than at any time since 1949, when Mao took over power on the mainland.

Diplomatic relations have been or are being established with many countries in both East and West. Canada and China have just exchanged ambassadors. Despite the table tennis America and China have yet to follow suit.

But according to Chou En-lai President Nixon had his press officer state that a new leaf had been turned over in relations with China. There are even forecasts of reciprocal visits by Chou En-lai and Richard Nixon.

Yet even if, after the ping-pong of mutual cordiality and initial practical moves on travel and commerce, diplomatic contacts such as were maintained in Warsaw for many years ensue, the two sides will for some time continue to come up against two fundamental issues that have so far prevented the establishment of normal relations. The one is Chiang Kai-shek, the other Vietnam.

America's loyalty to the aged generalissimo of Taiwan is maintained with difficulty by a China lobby that is steadily declining in influence, a trend that Mr Agnew's vocal support cannot reverse.

Mind you, Washington has so far stood by its military pledges to Chiang's refuge. So far, too, it has rigorously opposed all attempts to replace Taiwan's man at the United Nations with a representative of the People's Republic.

Not this year, maybe, but next year or the year after next at the latest even so cautious an observer as Secretary-General U Thant reckons the world will see a mainland Chinese diplomat move into the glass palace on New York's East River.

Previous compromises are not out of the question and Peking may gain access to the United Nations even sooner but it is idle to speculate.

To date the war in Vietnam has been an ideal opportunity for the Chinese of firing incessant, florid propaganda broadsides at the United States and its allies in Saigon. Vietnam may from now on play an entirely different role both for Washington and for Peking.

Now that the United States proposes to reduce its military commitments in South Vietnam to a few ground units and a powerful air shield while at the same time ensuring that its erstwhile ally is not liquidated by means of a full-scale invasion from the North it would be extremely useful if Peking were to bring a moderating influence to bear on Hanoi.

What is more, China might, in return for membership of the United Nations and economic assistance, be prepared to bring this influence to bear for a number of years at least.

Which is not, of course, to forget the third man, the Soviet Union. The interplay of relations between Washington, Moscow and Peking will grow increasingly important in world affairs over the forthcoming decade.

There need be no dramatic developments but increasingly agile manoeuvres and a swift succession of alliances is a certainty.

The issue of predominance or balance of power in Asia is inextricably linked with this relationship, though of course other countries, Japan, Indonesia, India, Australia and New Zealand, are also involved.

It is a confusing combination of ties and opposites and the course and outcome of events cannot be forecast in advance even in the short term.

As long as it is incapable of taking joint political action Europe will at best be a bystander and if the worst comes to the worst a pawn.

A number of European countries, first and foremost the Federal Republic, would do well to dismiss illusions that the power struggle in Asia might come to a conclusion convenient for themselves.

In the long term, though, no one can stop this country from boosting trade with Peking. Even now Bonn is third only to Japan and Hong Kong. This country has long since overtaken the Soviet Union in trade with Peking.

Hans Glinch
(Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 April 1971)

Alarming prospects in East Pakistan

independence" has led, logically enough, to a further offer to supply arms should the need arise.

As long as India refrains from invading East Pakistan it remains to be seen whether or not this pledge is intended merely as a preventive ultimatum to New Delhi as pages of political commentaries in Pakistani papers, mainly by West Pakistani politicians, have presumed.

Political observers recall, however, that Peking responded to the Indo-Pakistani Kashmir conflict of 1963 with a similar warning which was taken so seriously by Washington and Moscow that they brought pressure to bear on both sides to conclude an armistice.

The comparison does not, admittedly, stand up to particularly close examination since this time the Pakistani army is involved, potentially at least, in a war on two fronts, against the emancipation-bent East Bengalis on the one hand and the Indian army, which is at action stations, on the other.

Even so, then as now China has come out in favour of a Pakistani military. President because West Pakistan is both strategically and no doubt as an opponent

of India of greater importance to it than East Pakistan, which would like to come to terms with neighbouring India.

But providing that appropriate pressure is brought to bear, mainly by the United States on this occasion, of course, this fact alone ought to be enough to stop India from intervening directly in East Bengal.

In the long term, though, a military solution to the problem of East Pakistan is out of the question. As the Pakistani generals will hardly be in a position to bank on China and disregard the rest of the world for all time there is at least a hope that the military regime will at some stage or other start to investigate the more fundamental causes of the crisis and grant the Bengalis a greater degree of autonomy after all.

These hopes would, however, be dashed if what is as yet largely a political and propaganda confrontation in East Pakistan were to lead to military confrontation. Not to mention the fact that any development of this kind would be bound to increase the suffering of the general public in Pakistan's Eastern province.

Werner Stadt-Annalger
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 April 1971)

The Arab federation and the Mirage fighters

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The Arab rule of three, the so-called Arab League, has become the twenty-eight countries of the Arab world. Recognition by a twenty-ninth, thirty, and many more countries will not come long, he forecast. The Arab League, though, it too contains the seeds of its own dissolution.

Even its initial proclamation of recognition of the GDR. Is a distinction between "all liberal states" (and does Bonn intend to do anything encouraged to join) and Arab states about it? To begin with, in the fifties, recognition was countered by legal and moral arguments. The Hallstein Doctrine was political will crystallising in the foreign policy side of this country's tries with completely different aims and economic problems. The German people, moon factor could again prove: Bonn responded to recognition of the confrontation with Israel.

The refusal to conclude peace with Israel and the establishment of the supreme command sets a strain on to bring about a partial withdrawal from the Canal Zone.

To this extent it also represents a handicap for Egyptian President Nasser, who doubtless only gained acceptance for Egyptian leadership recognition of the GDR by third countenance from dynamic Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi.

Sadat will probably be the first to state of the new union, which may be applied to certain domestic and foreign policy sectors but in formulating a right of intervention proposes to countries since they had already broken a kind of Arab Socialist Brezhnev line.

Colonel Gaddafi's anti-Communist, pro-Soviet outlook are sites that could easily lead to friction. The military cooperation is a agreement has been reached is a doubt in line with Soviet military problems for France, which supplied Libya with the latest Mirage fighters on condition that they defend Libya only.

The joint supreme command of the new Arab federation is, however, to post troops of any member country to any part of another member country the Israeli frontier, for instance.

That would be particularly problematic in view of the fact that Paris has supplied "warfare" Israel with Mirage jets for which the Israelis had paid.

DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 30 April

POLITICS

Bonn content to wait and see on GDR recognition issue

Hardly a fortnight has passed since GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Long Stibi was able to announce that Bonn had become the twenty-eight countries to accord the GDR full diplomatic recognition.

Recognition by a twenty-ninth, thirty, and many more countries will not come long, he forecast. The Arab League, though, it too contains the seeds of its own dissolution.

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DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 30 April

Bonn's Ostpolitik

Continued from page 1

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which has been that she is no longer dependent on Communist goodwill.

What is more, the GDR's tactics of persuading individual small countries to recognise it in return for considerable political and commercial expenditure represents a significant strain on East Berlin's resources.

So far this dedicated effort has scored a number of individual successes but there is still no sign of a major breakthrough on the horizon.

In a number of countries, the Central African Republic, for instance, a considerable discrepancy between the GDR's promises and what it is in a position to deliver has come to light.

Barely six months after the exchange of ambassadors with East Berlin President Bokassa disillusionedly talked in terms of "certain friends" who "have spoiled our prospects with old friends who understood us well enough and, for instance, helped us to build factories and set up a merchant navy."

In Ceylon too the GDR has nowhere near made up for the decline in trade with this country.

Bonn is playing it cool, taking decisions in accordance with its own interests and trusting in its political importance and economic power.

For the time being the Federal government is not prepared to make the GDR internationally acceptable. It aims by refusing to recognise the GDR for the time being to make East Berlin more ready to negotiate within Germany.

There is no longer any mention of sanctions but it is evident that when diplomatic relations cool off, as in Ceylon's case, economic relations and development aid suffer as a result.

There are differences of opinion on this score between the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and the Foreign Office. Dr Eppler's Ministry is firmly convinced that development aid is not a suitable means of aiding and abetting short-term foreign policy considerations and this view has been confirmed by a Cabinet decision.

As a rule current projects are continued and negotiations on new ones brought to a conclusion but a more cautious approach is brought to bear on new schemes. Differences of opinion on the extent of future development aid are almost inevitable, as can be seen in the case of Chile, which is currently under Cabinet discussion.

As Bonn's approach is pragmatic it can well change. Even before the formal conclusion of a treaty between Bonn and East Berlin - in the event, say, of a satisfactory Berlin settlement - the Federal government could be more forthcoming.

What if policy towards the Eastern Bloc grinds to a halt? "We can uphold our position for some time to come," the Foreign Office maintains. How long, one can but wonder.

Rold Zundel
(DIE ZEIT, 23 April 1971)

West Berlin SPD wins a Pyrrhic victory

West Berlin Senate, the new city council, has seen the light of day. The new Senate is nothing spectacular yet its labour pains were considerable.

The Social Democrats have an absolute majority and were able to make all the appointments themselves but when it came to the crunch the distribution of posts proved more problematic than coalition talks with another party.

Confident of tried and trusted Social Democratic party discipline the right wing was inexorable in its dealings with the left wing of the party.

Once again it has proved far more trying and complicated to form an absolute majority government than to reach a sensible compromise with a coalition partner. Yet the West Berlin SPD leaders must have known what they were in for when they decided to go it alone. Far too often and unrestrainedly the right wing had exploited its numerical majority to the pitiful disadvantage of the left.

It was only to be expected that the left wing would grasp the opportunity of having a minority sufficient to prevent the election of new Senators by the council and utilise it to the full.

Viewed in the clear light of day the left wing has not really exploited this position as much as it might have done. One left-wing Senator and two left-wing Senate directors may sound good but the presence of a woman Senator for Youth and Sport as the representative of the left wing of the party at Schöneberg town hall is nothing to write home about, not even when she has a fellow left-winger as Senate director.

Harry Ristock, left wing spokesman, may now be a Senate speaker, the equivalent of a State Secretary in a state government, but that alone is not going to set the world on fire either.

All the key posts have remained in the hands of right-wingers and the left wing has been fobbed off with consolation prizes.

In the circumstances Klaus Schütz, Governing Mayor and SPD leader in West Berlin, will have difficulty in pursuing the policy advocated by his predecessor, party leader and Chancellor, Willy Brandt.

There is no point in crying over spilt milk but there is no harm either in repeating that in coalition with the Free Democrats Klaus Schütz would have had a broader base for supporting the Bonn Social and Free Democratic coalition government's policy on Germany and towards the Eastern Bloc.

Mayor Schütz must now rely for support on a local party that on the German question speaks the language of the extreme right-wing *Aktion Widerstand*.

What else can be said when West Berlin SPD describes the Soviet paper on the Four-Power talks as a document of capitulation?

Klaus Schütz faces four troubled years - and not only in respect of his own party. He will have to prepare for a war on two fronts on the city council.

The ruling Social Democrats will be faced with opposition from both the Left and the Right. Virtually any controversial topic could try the SPD to the point of breaking point.

At the polls the Social Democrats just about managed to maintain their absolute majority. Will they pull it off again after four years of soul-destroying Christian and Free Democratic opposition?

This is a particularly acute question when it is borne in mind that the SPD on the Spree (the river Spree, that is) have control over the legislative, the executive and the party machine and create the impression of being a party of civil servants. The next elections will tell.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 April 1971)

Free Democrats re-think

In the Free Democrats' struggle to survive there seemed until recently to be no doubt that the party had no option but to remain on the left of the political spectrum.

The Jungdemokraten were not alone in proclaiming this ideological viewpoint. The trend was borne out by the reality of coalitions in Bonn and many of the Federal states.

A number of the FDP's national and regional leaders now appear to be of the opinion that the Liberals ought, current cooperation with the Social Democrats notwithstanding, to remain in principle prepared to cooperate with both Left and Right.

Their number includes Home Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl and Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education in Bonn, and

leading Free Democrats in Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Hesse, the Rhineland-Palatinate and Bavaria.

Comments may vary from place to place but the general tenor is that if the FDP is to survive as an independent party it must be able to make a choice on the basis of the day-to-day situation.

This is not to say that the FDP has not as a whole developed into a strongly left-wing party. It is a well-known fact that younger members of the FDP tend to be politically committed towards the Left.

The interesting aspect of this FDP reappraisal is thus that there would appear to be cause for the Free Democrats to reflect whether the reserves of left-wing voters are sufficient to keep Liberalism alive in the long run.

Walter Beck
(Kleiner Nachrichten, 14 April 1971)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Minister welcomes frank debate of proposed divorce law reform

Gerhard Jahn, the Minister of Justice, has had to make a number of amendments to his proposed divorce law reform, giving rise to the question of whether the draft Bill he put forward for discussion was not too progressive.

However there was no justification for the fears of many critics who thought that the reforms would not take the existing social situation into consideration.

Only proposals considering the situation in the future can lead to a Bill which all interested parties should have a share in drawing up.

The Minister of Justice probably realised that the public would consider his Bill to be too progressive. But what would have come of his plans if he had heeded the views of the Churches and the conservatives from the very beginning?

The changes forced by the critics of the original Bill, including leading Social Democrats, only bring drawbacks, however.

The principle of marital breakdown has been called into question. Now a marriage in which the partners have lived apart for more than three years will not be annulled automatically because of this period of separation. Jahn's original Bill would have allowed this.

The changes do not make reconciliation any the easier and the divorce cannot be prevented if the partner wanting it employs good enough tactics.

The changes only arouse false hopes and will only lead to judges having to listen to intimate details of a marriage. The original Bill would have avoided this.

This change does not strike at the foundations of Gerhard Jahn's Bill but it does help to water down the Bill's original intention of sparing the feelings

of all parties as much as possible in divorce cases.

As lamentable as this change may be, there is consolation in the fact that Jahn's opponents were unable to push through the introduction of a seven-year separation period and a material hardship clause.

The hardship clause preventing a divorce where it would mean hardship for one of the partners seems to be an important social innovation at first glance. But closer examination reveals that it is to the disadvantage of poorer people.

The Minister of Justice announced his reform plans before they were agreed by the Cabinet. This was an unusual step but it certainly helped to show the wide range of criticism and approval.

The discussion encouraged Jahn to limit the Churches' influence on his Bill with their religious and ethical views.

The public debate dealt with all controversial questions with the result that members of the Bundestag do not now have to sound out public opinion as they would have had to do otherwise.

At one time important social questions were only discussed in academic circles and expert opinions published in specialist periodicals. This time all interested parties were able to gain a hearing.

This procedure is not without its troubles but it is good for a democracy. It demands better nerves than usual practice in which the government only abandons clauses when it is not sure of a comfortable majority in the Bundestag.

We can only look back with alarm at the way that the right of opposition by the "innocent" wife entered civil law in 1961.

This did not result from any conviction of the fairness and correctness of such a

step but the wish of the Christian Democrat government to present a united front in the Bundestag despite contradictory views within the party.

As Jahn stressed that his proposals were a basis for discussion and wished to adapt them after hearing what the public had to say, the changes in his Bill cannot be interpreted as a defeat for the Minister.

Some alteration was necessary concerning maintenance rights. In other cases Jahn had to make concessions not because his arguments were weak but because he was forced to by the overwhelming tenor of public opinion.

There was a general fear that the proposed maintenance clauses could be to the detriment of the older housewives who had not gone out to work for a long time.

These women are frequently completely dependent on their husbands in both thought and action and have grown up with the ideal of a marriage where the wife does not go out to work. They are dependent on their husbands economically and have few political views of their own.

These women were alarmed when the Bill planned to pay serious attention to the principle of equality. Their fear of descending the social ladder, and having a lonely old age and the feeling of failure when a marriage breaks up is understandable.

The stereotyped picture of the happy married couple makes it difficult for them to depart from the old idea of unconditional faithfulness in marriage.

But perhaps the discussions have taught them that it is they themselves who suffer most if they cling to a husband for reasons of maintenance.

The Bill makes it easier for divorced women to end an impossible marital situation and start a new life of their own. The new maintenance clauses are tailor-made to their situation.

It is always a personal hardship to get a divorce or be divorced, irrespective of the divorce law. The plan to give up the idea of the indissolubility of marriage — in law at least — will narrow the gap between ideal and reality.

Marianne Quoirin

(Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 April 1971)

Bonn makes public statistics on extremist groups

DIE WELT

The government has announced that there are 316 extreme left-wing political groups in the Republic and West Berlin with a membership of some 94,500.

Replying to a Bundestag question, Christian Democrat and Christian Social Union politicians, the government announced and launch a new way of thought that there were 250 left-wing organisations, including 100 Communist groups.

The largest of the left-wing groups is the Communist Party (DKP) with 30,000 members. The government believes that the DKP has to pay for its party apparatus and the of contemporary trends in post-war Germany.

The membership of Trotskyist and anarchist groups is about 3,000. Red Cells have some 1,000 members. The extreme left publish 420 newspapers and periodicals with a circulation of 1.5 million copies.

For the first time in four years the membership of extreme right-wing groups has sunk below 30,000. The history of Democratic Party is still the same. The organisation with its 21,000 members is still the largest even though it has lost 7,000 members since 1970.

Deutsche Nationalzeitung with a circulation of 117,000 is the largest right-wing weekly. The government called "Alles was von Gott geboren" and that the extreme right-wing group only in Leipzig where all types of floric

(DIE WELT, 16 April 1971)

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Myth and legend surround figure of Martin Luther

up to the Führer — one consequence of the Lutheran doctrine of two empires — entails that a Christian person should give up his freedom in matters politic," Heinemann himself has experienced this.

During the stormy debates on reunification in the early fifties the head of the Evangelical Church's synod alone warned that Adenauer's policy of Western integration would prevent German reunification.

His colleagues stated that the Church should keep out of this type of issue though it had not stopped them from meeting Adenauer on 5 November 1951 and allowing him to interpret the results of the meeting as approval for his policy.

Today Gustav Heinemann is President of the State resulting from this policy. But it is only at the first glance into our history that it appears paradoxical for the Protestants of the past to have cited the name of the German prototype, the staunch Martin Luther, as the reason for abandoning staunch resistance where it could have saved the country from greater calamity. At second glance it appears logical.

Karl Marx described the hymn *Ein feste Burg* as the German *Marseillaise*. But he was mistaken. The hymn is not revolutionary nor is it a martial battle hymn. Repentance is a changing of ways.

Where Luther is concerned, Catholics and Protestants, and not only they, have to change their views. President Heinemann has pointed out the way.

Robert Leicht

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 April 1971)



A print of Martin Luther before Emperor Charles V at Worms in 1521 refusing to retract the stand he had taken up with the nailing of the 95 theses on the door of the church at Wittenberg (Photo: dpa)

Call to Pope to repeal Papal Bull

Before Easter a committee representing Catholics in Worms sent a letter to Pope Paul VI calling for a ruling on the reformer Martin Luther.

The writers of the nine-page memorandum which was also distributed at the doors of all Catholic churches over Easter want the Pope to repeal the Papal Bull excommunicating Martin Luther on 3 January 1521 as a heretic.

The petition claims that a ruling on the excommunication would reduce the tension existing between the Churches and be one of the important "ecumenical deeds of the Holy Father".

It would not only be of particular significance to the two confessions in this country but could also have important

consequences for Catholics the world over.

Catholics in Worms did not find it easy to compose an appeal calling for an end to the personal discrimination of Martin Luther, despite their progressive beliefs.

Before the letter was sent, there were long, violent discussions mainly sparked off by laity and the clergy did not associate themselves with the appeal until it had found a substantial majority for this action among church-goers.

If the Pope approves — this would be a revolutionary change, the Worms Catholics state — the authors of the petition hope that an end to the commission of Lutherans and Catholics will discuss the problem further.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 April 1971)

Worms Memorial Week is no Luther Festival

The programme announces "Commemoration of the 450th Anniversary of the Imperial Diet of Worms of 1521", studiously avoiding the word "celebration" or "festival".

"We are not celebrating a Luther Festival, we are not celebrating anything," said Worms Mayor Kufuss in his speech at the opening ceremony.

The opening was formal not only because of the many representatives from public life assembled but also because of a really "ceremonial" musical programme under the strict direction of Tobias Ihle.

It is not easy to rid a series of events from the atmosphere of official pompous celebrations. The ceremonies at Worms were concerned with Martin Luther's appearance before the Imperial Diet there in 1521, though from the viewpoint of "Luther 1971".

Dr Kufuss stressed that the organisers wanted to prompt a change of thinking as far as Luther was concerned. It was possible in today's world to act in the ecumenical spirit to deal with a common fate. Protestant and Catholic bishops hold joint services.

Professor H. Lutz, the Viennese historian, claimed that the ecumenical movement was a reaction to National Socialist rule. Things had had to go to such extremes before a movement of this type was possible, he said.

In his lecture entitled "Luther and five centuries of German history" Professor Lutz explained the political background to the Imperial Diet and followed the

secularisation of the figure of Luther, its amalgamation with the national consciousness of the nineteenth century and the resultant tension between the Church as an institution in connection with the State and the credibility of the Christian message.

Lutz limited his survey to the past and attributed the success of the Reformation to Luther's own career, thus opposing President Heinemann who had stressed the historical reasons for the forcefulness of the Reformation.

H. Schöffler adds that the Reformation also entailed the establishment of a link between religious forces, after incorporation in a Church, and the power of the State.

President Heinemann, the patron of the Worms commemoration, opposed interpreting Luther ideologically as Marxists do. Religious motives and Luther's personal beliefs were the determining factor of his actions, the President said.

Luther had not sought a new social order, nor universal equality. Indeed his basic conservatism would have stood in the way of any social change.

It was his conservative behaviour that has encouraged the fateful link between throne and altar that led to the German Evangelical Church becoming the "Halle-lujah cart" (Hans Iwand) of State authority.

The Church lost sight of its functions in the social sphere — to support the oppressed and exploited. The fateful link

between Church and State hindered the proffered development of the new Churches to parish churches of equal members. It has also had an indirect hindering influence on the social equality peculiar to a democracy.

We today have at least lost the self-assuredness of Luther's pupils, the President continued. "We have recognised that there can be no Christian policy and a Christian State but we also know that it is a Christian duty to obey God's word in political actions as well."

"The imitation of Jesus Christ is a revolutionary force. We have failed where it does not exist. By admitting this to ourselves yet continuing to obey the duties placed upon us, we once again find the right contact with Luther."

On the Sunday leading representatives of the Protestant and Catholic Churches attended ecumenical services and mentioned the need to stress what they had in common despite all differences and pray together for the lost unity of the Church.

Moderator Hild, head of the Hesse-Nassau Church, said that while Catholics and Protestants both considered themselves to be the one true Church and community of Christ fifty years ago, they knew today that they were both serving the Lord.

The Catholic Bishop of Mainz stressed that division did not impair the Church's power of testimony. Unity of belief was the condition for the unity of the Church, he said. The Church was on Earth not for its own sake but to bear the testimony of God in the world.

The Luther Commemoration Week continued to 25 April with lectures, discussion evenings and musical events. An exhibition on the background and consequences of the Diet of Worms will continue until 31 October.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 April 1971)

Survey shows public has little confidence in the law

People in the Federal Republic do not have a very high estimation of their legal system and this will not be overcome by better knowledge of the law, thought by many to be a patent solution. The population's mistrust of the law has been lamented for years but it is not due so much to ignorance as to bad experiences with the law, lawyers and law courts.

Wolfgang Kaupen and Theo Rasehorn came to this harsh conclusion after making their preliminary evaluation of a representative survey examining the public's attitude to the law in the Federal Republic.

The survey was commissioned by the Research Community and conducted by the Sociology Working Group for Legal Matters of Cologne University.

During the course of last summer 1,100 adults gave the interviewers their opinions about this country's legal system. The sample was a representative cross-section of the whole population as far as age, profession, sex, religion and home background were concerned.

Kaupen and Rasehorn do not believe that the strained relationship between citizen and law is due so much to society's ignorance of the law as the law's remoteness from society. They therefore believe that not even the best law instruction in schools can narrow this gap between the individual and the law.

"There would be little sense in trying to acquaint the public with a legal system that overlooks the real interests of the population," Kaupen and Rasehorn claim.

Confidence in the law could only be

improved, they claim, if the laws conform more strongly to the wishes of society and if judges and lawyers change their attitude towards the public.

These views are supported by answers given in the survey. The greatest mistrust of the law was generally shown by people who had already had some contact with the law in either civil or criminal cases. Traffic offences were the most common reason for their appearance before the court.

Remarkably enough, most of these people had won these cases or settled out of court to their advantage. Only one in eight lost. The mistrust of justice must therefore be more deeply-rooted in the population than to depend solely on what success or lack of success a person had had in his dealings with the law.

A question in the survey showed that this was the case. The sample was asked, "Assuming you have difficulties with your insurance company after an accident because the company only wishes to pay for half the damage. Would you accept the company's decision even though you believed that you were in the right or would you go to court even if it was a matter of some 250 Marks?"

Less than half the population (45 per cent) would take the case to the courts, the survey showed. Women were the most

likely group to give in while intellectuals, executives and civil servants were least prepared to accept a compromise.

Significantly enough, 54 per cent of those people who had already taken a case to court would now give in and accept the fifty per cent offered by the insurance company.

With sixty per cent they are also the most violent critics, believing that lawyers only make a case more difficult, than it already is. On average only half the sample interviewed consider this view to be justified.

The overwhelming majority describe a typical judge as painstaking and objective while only half the sample also thought of him as friendly and helpful. Again, those people in the sample who had had contact in the law had certain doubts about a judge's objectivity.

People who have appeared before judges are more likely to criticise this profession as being unfriendly, biased, off-putting and subjective. Those who had come into contact with chancery court judges claimed that they were very superficial.

Another factor throwing bad light on the objectivity of judges is the belief shared by almost three-quarters (74 per cent) of the population that it is easier to win a case if a person has a lot of money.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 1 April 1971)

People like pop-art and are willing to pay large sums of money for it. American artist Andy Warhol received over 40,000 Marks for a coloured picture of Rockefeller and Roy Lichtenstein's comic strips command sums of 45,000 Marks. A Brunswick professor now claims that pop-art has no merit and is nothing but commercialism.



Picasso's Woman

Nothing of the sort had happened since the nineteenth century — a new art style made its bow to the public, was immediately applauded and soon soared on the art market.

That was pop-art, a movement that concentrates on the banal, everyday world of advertising, consumer goods, technology, eroticism and politics and limits itself to the more or less realistic portrayal of Coca-Cola bottles, comic strips or cans of soup.

There were always lone voices criticising the whole conception of pop-art. But this criticism was never devastating. Until now.

The small Munich publishing concern of Moos has issued a 88-page pamphlet with the harmless sounding title *Pop-Art*, an academic critique and comprehensive study of the movement.

The booklet accuses pop-art of being: Devoid of merit; Banal and consequently successful; Pretentious; A copy of Dadaism; Commercialist.

These accusations carry some weight. The author of the work is Jürgen Weber, 43, a sculptor and Professor at Brunswick's Technical University.

His remarks have already met with angry reaction. The theories he now puts forward are based on a series of lectures he held at the time.

Weber reports, "The art students were outraged by my theories and they were able to manifest their outrage better by making a racket than by putting forward reasoned arguments. All they did was stage a pop spectacle."

"The reaction of the local press was unfavourable. Their report of my lecture was wrong and incomplete. Corrections submitted by some of the audience and finally by the author and university representatives were not published. It is an established custom that there is no freedom of opinion in the field of art."

Jürgen Weber has good reasons for saying what he does about pop-art.

American pop-artists such as Rauschenberg, Warhol, Oldenburg, Lichtenstein and Wesselmann seem to be progressive and untrammelled by tradition but they do have two forerunners — Dadaists Marcel Duchamp and Kurt Schwitters.

As early as 1914 Marcel Duchamp was exhibiting bottle-racks as sculptures to wake the bourgeois from their sleepy admiration for the old masters. These so-called ready-mades were meant to shake existing concepts of art and aesthetics.

THE ARTS

Brunswick professor exposes pop-art

The forerunners of pop-art such as Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns were also called neo-Dadaists. They and the pop-artists exploited Dadaism though to different ends. While the ready-mades were meant to provoke the bourgeoisie, the pop-artists took them seriously.

Marcel Duchamp himself complained in 1962: "This neo-Dada, this pop-art is no more than a convenient solution living off what Dada created. When I invented ready-mades I wanted to question aesthetics. Neo-Dada has taken my ready-mades and found aesthetic beauty in them."

While Marcel Duchamp made no financial profit from his protests, the pop-art people are living off the fat of the land.

The movement reaches its shallowest point where Andy Warhol draws cans of soup and packets of washing powder and Rauschenberg signs dollar bills, Weber claims. Unlike Marcel Duchamp, the pop-artists are using art as a means to hit the big money.

Weber reports, "Warhol's only original invention was the transference of photographs on to canvas by the screen process. He has used it everywhere he can. Cows, flowers, cola bottles and film idols such as Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley or Liz Taylor are all captured in colour and symbolically arranged. This tradition is so banal that everyone can understand it and that is why it is so successful."

"But how can this be reconciled with the artistic pretensions of Andy Warhol? How can this be reconciled with the incredible prices paid for such works? Warhol recently received ten thousand dollars for a colour photo of Rockefeller that he had transferred on to canvas by the screen process."

Horror scenes form part of Andy

Warhol's repertoire. His death series showing an electric chair and a road accident are well-known. Weber says, "His fascination with horror has no artistic merit."

Weber adds that he is tempted to think that the portrayal of the horrors of the modern world means good trade for Warhol. "Horror and sex have always sold well. Andy Warhol thinks and feels like everyone else in the United States and that is why he has such great success there."

Together with Pop pioneer Marcel Duchamp, Hanover-born Kurt Schwitters is also a popular and rich source for pop-artists. The highly-praised work of Robert Rauschenberg, the first American to win the Grand Prix for art at the Venice Biennial, is an unmistakable imitation of Schwitters.

"The most important difference is the size," comments Weber, adding, "Schwitters' work far surpasses all similar works by Rauschenberg in formal quality."

Professor Weber also attacks Lichtenstein, the most popular and expensive pop-artists after Warhol. "The popularity of Lichtenstein's comic strips which fetch up to ten thousand dollars is due not to the artistic quality of the work but to the popularity of the real comic strips."

"His pictures never originate from a primary visual experience of his own which he tries to record on canvas. His painting consists almost exclusively in taking originals, changing them and thus forming new pictures."

Weber describes Lichtenstein's versions of Picasso paintings as a complete failure: "He has fully misunderstood Picasso who is made subject to the usual clichés spouted by people who do not understand him."

There is a touch of dramatics in every event and the ten day "London now in Berlin" show was no exception. Pop groups were of course "the new musical generation", happenings were "total theatre" and the art exhibition heralded "the death pangs of the London art trade".

Those taking part added their bit. On the opening night one group removed the fuses of another and a third group refused to perform following a difference of opinion with the organisers.

The fact that this final group was Mark Boyle's *Sensual Laboratory* is however a pity. Boyle is the inventor of psychedelic lighting effects and his work with Jimi Hendrix and *The Soft Machine* made his group famous.

After this contretemps there only remained the exhibition of Boyle's *Earth Probes* in the Academy of Arts. Hung and lit unfavourably, they are not much more than stage props, fragments of a missing whole.

But these painstaking *Earth Probes* still retain their peculiar effect. Perhaps the easiest to understand are the sand series where the enormous variety of the traces of water can be seen — those liquid formations that fascinate us on the beach.

The *Probes* are more than reproductions. They bear a fine layer of the object's surface, thus retaining its vitality. Other items with stones, branches, leaves and earth have a pronounced aesthetic effect.

The critical point is reached with the "street probes" — pavements, pedestrian crossings and cobblestones. This is everyday life where no aesthetic associations can intrude.

London show visits Berlin

It is surprising what a sculptural and occasionally powerful effect these bits of reality have. When all is said and done, Boyle is only pushing the principle of *Nouveau Réalisme* to its logical conclusion.

The exhibition in the trade fair halls by the radio tower has been but on by 23 artists of a group of ninety in all who have been working since 1969 in the old derelict St Katherine's Dock in London's East End.

There is no common artistic impulse to be found in this exhibition. There is Op-art with the moiré effect, Pop-art, a mixture of Morris Louis and Informal Art, Minimal Art and Monochrom. The list could be extended ad infinitum.

This is not to suggest that there are no original achievements here. There is Peter Logan's moving electronic sculpture called "Square Dance" with four rotating red discs providing an experiment in time and space.

Peter Sedgley and Don Mason ("Colour Maze") have once again effectively taken up an old ZERO idea with hanging plastic strips and neon light.

Rose Garrard's *Circle* of four veiled black tailor's dummies achieves a certain dramatic effect.

Perhaps nothing more was to be expected from a group that had come



Lichtenstein's version of Picasso's 'Die Versicherung'

One of the most popular subjects in the comic strips is war and brutality. This play from the early fifties is a

ing of this tendency. Weber says that once this playwright. He criticism, enlightenment or punishment need to blast the structure of the depiction of war is so stupid bourgeois society into which he was born prettily coloured that anyone who could forcibly extract his own the works in the face of current evidence from this setup.

struck dumb. War could never be a no-man's-land of denunciation. The Professor thinks he is cold and hostile to society, reasons why: "It was precisely where political weapons are not yet artist's function to innovate, reflected and for this reason aesthetics trends and put his stamp on the become an instrument of destruction turned upon those who think that as far

"Pop-artists are now marching as art and certain other constants are the times. Advertisers, designers concerned they have got it made! psychologists have developed in the midst of tumult, of bourgeois ratus over a number of years grabbing for possessions, lust for sex, artist needs only to take it which fills the first tableau of the play That must be manipulated with a lecherous, materialist society, a trust sense of the world.

"If pop-art were nothing but insurance that will protect him from new products in the world of catastrophic catastrophes and revolutions, and consumer goods, there would be no longer any security to need to talk about it. But his is because of its pretentious claim to light, who forecasts doom, who sees the values of the citizens' possessions, husband, houseowners, company managers and all, in grave danger, there dances a whole world, revelling, copulating, carousing itself to death, happily, destructively.

Throughout the play Peter Weiss pro-

together by accident. The tracks the moment when all inhibitions thing is that it enables so many of are shelved — in tableau after tableau he work although Robert Kudszus repeats the explosion of the bourgeois pillories social indifference to and order of society; destructiveness is rife, catalogue. This is why people at last are indulged, violence and greed wonder whether two or three times sweep anxiety under the carpet.

The visitor now finds himself gazing at the rot, the whole process of round tower-like room containing a dissolution. thing like stage debris of wood and in each new scene he puts on the stage A gallery above enables the viewer another horrible picture of yet another survey the scene.

Everything is white with lines which other for scraps of meat like mad every step raises a cloud of dust, people copulating as they dance, mountain of cotton waste lies everywhere and wanton, selfish and grab-floor. This is the place where people attacking each other, stealing wives, Brisley's *Surgical Minutes* take place.

The performance begins with a flow of speech and their human under- and his group slowly sleep-walks. The scene. A girl writhes on the floor. He roars twice. In the end he is dissolved. A man begs his way through the surrounding audience.

The game gradually accelerates. everyone goes around in a circle. facing the women. The man is fastor until he begs races around himself. Billygoats mount to townspeople hair flying. When he is ready, sprints away as if in a race. The over.

We do not really know what the text to the play that was seen. At times we were bored. that it had not a dog's chance of being end the tension was so great that "different". And Brisley is not a social criticism of the Friedrich nor an actor but a sculptor. teacher. The impulses springs from Weiss' adaptation of the scornful vi-

John Anthony Thomas (DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, 16 April 1971)

THE STAGE

Peter Weiss first-ever play loses impact after 19 years

had been seen already in the Bunuel films came far before its time in the theatre.

It is irritating to find that now *Die Versicherung* has been staged in Essen it is virtually too late. It is really behind the times since it does not meet with any disapproval of note from today's sophisticates.

Has society already had so many of the props knocked from under it that Weiss' *Totentanz* of bourgeois belief in safety can now be considered consumer entertainment?

The Esser production, directed by Hans Neuenfels ran for about two hours without a break and the lack of unfavourable reaction was remarkable. The whole thing was accepted as a sterile work of art.

Neuenfels and his scenic designer, Wilfried Minks, went even further than Peter Weiss' stage directions in their settings. They brought the speechlessness of the dramatic personae into such sharp focus that many of the scenes looked as if they had been clipped from old silent movies. They became optical exaggerations of a society that has only genitalia, but no vocal cords.

Hans Neuenfels is a director who likes to make his characters materialise with optical drawings and he has made Weiss' play into a copulation ballet, with, so to speak, act piled on top of act, and position after position discovered and tried out. More and more phallic symbols are quoted incessantly throughout the play.

All this serves to underline the sexual obsessions of the citizens, but also, it must be added, the sexual obsessions of the author as well!

Certainly the relationship of the bourgeoisie to sexuality is corrupt and does serves to be scorned as Weiss instructs the actors with a number of stage directions. But Neuenfels does not concentrate so much on depicting the damage and the sicknesses that result from sublimation as the aesthetic outcome of it.

In the scenes where Peter Weiss aggressively and often uncouthly works out situations in which it is shown how sexuality is determined by the relationship to property and greed for more possessions Neuenfels keeps coming up with beautiful stylised tableaux.

He cuts up the scenes as set out by

Boleslaw Barlog — a profile at 65

After 1945 theatrical Berlin could no longer be what it once was. But it could take consolation in the fact that it had Barlog or "Boli Haarlock" as he was affectionately known because of his curly hair.

Berlin will feel the pinch when Boleslaw Barlog quits as manager of the Berlin State theatres (Schiller Theater, Schlosspark Theater and theatre workshop) on 31 August 1972, even though Hans Lietzau may be taking over as his successor.

But Barlog will not quit Berlin completely. Freed of his role as theatre manager he will be able to devote himself to the freer paths of directing. Nevertheless as a theatre manager Boleslaw Barlog has written his name in the history book of the German theatre as a theatre manager with greater credit than as a director, although this is not to detract from his significance.

On 28 March this native of Wrocław (Breslau) was 65 years-old. He came to Berlin so to speak at the eleventh hour

A scene from *Die Versicherung* by Peter Weiss

(Photo: Erich vom Endt)

Bond play staged in Hamburg

Edward Bond has had to wait a long time for the Federal Republic premiere of his play *Die Hochzeit des Papstes* (The pope's wedding) which was staged at London's Royal Court Theatre as long ago as December 1962.

This is the almost-parable of the increasing identification of the newly-married Scopey (played by Knut Hinz at the performance in the *Mallersaal* of Hamburg's Deutsches Schauspielhaus) with the aged, greying hermit, Alen (acted by Josef Dahmen).

The play was banned after its first performance in London — in fact the day after! Since then it has more or less been overtaken by Edward Bond's later plays, partly because of their greater realism, partly because of the greater challenge they present.

"Pope" Scopey is in fact too much of a model set in a world of impossibilities to counteract the contradiction between the need on the one hand to isolate himself from society and on the other hand to view society from the position of isolation, observe it closely and tie himself to it.

Scopey's example is Alen, a lachrymose, impenitent, exaggeratedly sensitive enemy of the world around him on the one hand. On the other hand he is a voyeur, a reader and collector of newspapers, a man who eats food out of tins and a masterful man making clear claims to power.

Peter von Wiese accordingly directed Josef Dahmen along these lines. Josef Dahmen accordingly interpreted the role of Alen along these lines.

Typical of this interpretation are gestures of protection and domination. Putting a hand on an unopened can of preserves; bending down completely over the newspapers that Alen is reading; stretching out an arm as master of all he survey — a corrugated iron hut.

In addition to this there are typical gestures of senility, with body and mind decaying.

There is a reminiscence of the taciturn man such as Samuel Beckett's Krapp — a man who goes out of his way without meeting himself along the road and who does not become involved with the few people he meets along the road (Scopey and his wife).

In the end Scopey murders Alen, dons his military cloak and takes over his role. Silently he squats in the corner of the hut to listen for possible signals from the world outside.

Jürgen Schmidt

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 April 1971)

and worked wonders with his courageous attitudes, his belief in himself and the theatre and in the rebuilding of Germany from the ashes.

No sooner had the guns stopped firing than he moved into a demolished cinema in the Schlosspark Theater. In no time at all he had made the suburb Steglitz the centre of Berlin's theatrical life. Without ever having produced a play of his own before he set himself up as a director in a city famous for Reinhardt, Jessner and Piscator. He set about organising a troupe and discovering new talent. Five years later when he had been entrusted with the newly built Schiller Theater which became the theatre workshop another decade later, he brought authors such as Samuel Beckett and Edward Albee to stages in this country. In addition he paved the way to world success for German authors such as Peter Weiss.

In the history of post-war theatre in this country the name of Boleslaw Barlog is written large.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 March 1971)

normal level again.
(Kielser Nachrichten, 14 April 197

■ THE ECONOMY

Temporary suspension of fixed rates of exchange to solve currency problems

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

Few people realise that the ten thousand million dollars that the Bundesbank holds in reserve at the moment are practically enough to buy out Fort Knox! The gold reserves that the United States guards at Fort Knox are worth only slightly more than this amount, which the Bundesbank could present to the American treasury and demand gold.

The dollar is a reserve currency without reserves. Only the political might of the United States of America is upholding it. For this prevents the creditors of the United States from taking advantage of the rights granted in the Bretton Woods Agreement which forms the basis of the world currency system that has been working itself to death for the past twenty-five years.

But the political might of the United States lies in the threat that is posed to Europe by the Soviet Union and to other countries by Red China.

Who would be able to give the dollar a helping hand if ever Russia decided to make friendly advances to Western Europe with the aim of undermining this power that America has over European countries?

It is fortunate for the Americans that the Russians have not yet discovered the potential that lies in this manoeuvre. Trusting in the traditional lack of imagination in the Kremlin the Americans feel that they can continue to blackmail Europe with the threat of Russia, and Japan with the threat of Red China into backing the dollar.

Therefore the Federal Republic finds itself caught in the web of inflation because America is going through an inflationary phase.

Banknote printing machinery is the origin of these dollars which the Bundesbank is forced to convert into Marks, leading to further inflation of our currency.

Since the turn of the year America's bank of issue has made out State debt bills for approximately six milliard dollars in order to finance debts run up by public spending.

At the same time the American banks that suddenly found themselves with a new and unexpected flood of liquid cash were glad to be able to pay off debts to the London money market, and hence the market for Eurodollars, with this artificially created new wealth.

As part of its business the London money market circulated this flood of dollars and practically the whole of it landed up in the Bundesbank vaults with the result that on 15 March this year the Bundesbank had 37.7 thousand million in foreign exchange as compared with 7.7 thousand million last year.

The purpose of printing all these new dollars was to get the American economy going again after a period of deflation. This aim has not yet been achieved.

The inflationary impulse shot across the Atlantic like an intercontinental missile that had got out of control and landed on the least inflationary country in Europe - the Federal Republic.

Money has a need to stay on the move and therefore makes for the country where there are the fewest administrative bars to its moving on again at any time.

With this background the lowering of Bank Rate in the Federal Republic was

intended as a measure to counteract the importation of hot money. But the flood of dollars into this country became even more marked which only underlines the futility of this measure in the economist's bag of tricks.

The difference in interest rates between Frankfurt and New York was cut, and there are signs that the money market across the Atlantic is getting tougher.

Even the paradoxical situation whereby "three month money" in hard Marks had a one-per-cent higher interest rate than in dollars was swept away. But this paradox only goes to reflect the great preparedness of people in this country to run up debts and the great reluctance of the Americans to do so.

We are not yet sure how far the Bundesbank will go in trying to direct this great preparedness to get into debt and how far the Bundesbank will be influenced by it, since it is now possible to borrow more cheaply from German banks.

The Bundesbank has already given a warning signal with its careful adjustment of the ceiling for the little used bills of exchange. The banks must think positively whether it is really so certain that the freshly fabricated money on a dollar basis will be replaced by money fabrication on a bill-of-exchange basis.

This uncertainty which calls for great care in the formulation of credit policies is about the only appreciable outcome of the decisions taken by the Central Bank Committee on 31 March.

The lowering of Bank Rate by a full

point was completely inundated by the flight away from the dollar.

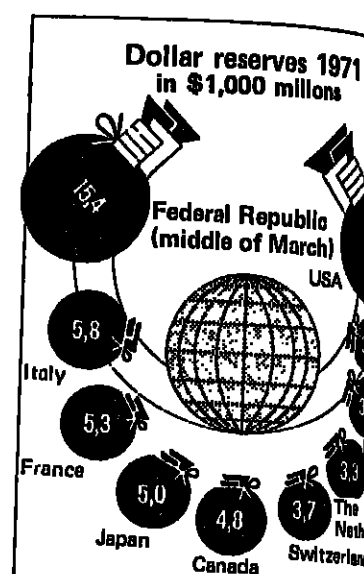
Since daily newspapers put a plea for a third revaluation in the mouth of the former Bundesbank President Karl Blessing (something he only really mentioned on the periphery of a number of suggestions of courses of action as a vague possibility) there has been a great deal of speculation on the Mark, which automatically involved investors in swinging away from the dollar.

At normal times differing interest rates work their rather obvious effect on the flow of money. But the present economic scene is, judging by past experiences, anything but normal. The abnormalities that have already shown up have had very little effect on those concerned with the market.

As a result we now find ourselves in the midst of a new tide of inflation. This will remain as long dollar parity is kept at its present rate and as long as the planned high deficits in the American budget fail to push up interest rates in New York, causing the American banks to borrow Eurodollars rather than paying them back.

Then we will be caught in the Americans' deflationary spell, however. The millions of dollars that have already flooded in will still be in the care of the Bundesbank, but the industrialists who have borrowed Marks to finance investments will be in no hurry to pay them back.

When the Americans dictated inflation to us we found it pleasant, but a dictated



deflation could be far more the unpleasant.

At present we still don't know the flight away from the dollar will be too much of a blow to prestige.

But as something has got to be done since the market requires it, it is only the aim of the Americans to manoeuvre the Mark, the Yen, the Franc and perhaps other minor currencies into revaluation.

But nobody wants to reveal the order to upvalue the Mark and the rise of the collective follows.

Progressive industrial concerns draw the consequences from recognition of this fact. They neither content themselves with the standardised basic skills that members of their team bring with them from their years of learning, nor rely on the initiative of their workers alone to keep themselves up to date with the latest tricks of their trade and pave their own way for promotion.

Modern firms are far more concerned to take over the responsibility of providing further training for their staff. Sometimes they do this with gentle persuasion and, where necessary, encourage members of their staff to take further training. This applies to the skilled worker as much as the member of the board of directors.

In a brochure issued by the Bayer chemicals company in Leverkusen it states: "At Bayer it is an essential part of company policy on further training for members of the staff that all workers should be given every opportunity to develop their faculties and their working skills and to strengthen their intellect, character and expert talents."

Although this company policy does mention development of the personality it is mainly designed to bolster those talents that Bayer workers need for their careers. As Herr Richter from Bayer's personnel department responsible for further training said, programmes of advanced training are "organised by and for the company and its best interests."

Several years ago Bayer began to streamline and rationalise the programme of further training in career skills that had been recognised as essential. Basically their system involves complementary factors: practical on-the-job training at the place of work and progressive further training within the framework of courses, seminars, work-study groups, lectures and discussions and to a certain extent as a result of self-organised study. Such a system as this cannot possibly dispense with the personal initiative of the individual worker.

As far as the individual is concerned the need for further training arises from the different and greater demands made on him. For instance when electronic data processing equipment is introduced into the firm and into his department he must be instructed in the potential of the computer he will be working with. If he is switched from one department

to another (horizontal mobility) or if he achieves promotion (vertical mobility) he must be prepared for his new working conditions.

Special training of this kind can also be of value in solving the problems of the moment or improving the flow of information within the company.

The Bayer further training scheme is organised into several different groups. There are work-study groups for new employees to learn the lines along which the company works and for general information of older workers; then there are courses of expert study for members of staff with a background of natural sciences, craftsman training, technical studies or sales management; also courses to prepare workers for a new position at a higher level (sometimes involving a final examination that is recognised by the State) and management training for executives and managerial staff.

The committee at Bayer as a whole went in for the Bad Harzburg programme of management training methods. Participation in courses of this kind generally speaking takes place during working hours and at the company's expense.

In order to make its training programmes as appropriate as possible Bayer has embarked on a scheme to analyse the demands made on the individual worker by the line of work in which he is involved. The aim of this investigation is to set up a schematised plan of the demands made on the individual employee. With the help of this anyone applying for such a job will not just be given a course of training to help him carry out the job, but will have a programme of training "tailor-made" to his requirements and the requirements of the position to which he aspires.

For instance a member of staff changing from a position inside the firm to a representative job outside Bayer's pro-

Personnel policies in the major, multinational electrical goods manufacturing companies are determined by two aims. Firstly to set up a reservoir of technical and sales leaders who will ensure that the personnel requirements for long-term expansion of the company are fulfilled.

Secondly, in a branch of the economy where possibilities for future improvements are determined primarily by the latest technological developments, further training schemes must be set up sufficient to equip all members of the staff with all they need to meet the demands of a technological future.

One of the pivotal tasks of personnel management in the sphere of technical and sales leaders is, according to Otto Mössner, a member of the board of AEG-Telefunken, to coordinate the personnel plans that have been worked out by the individual departments within the company.

In a company in the electrical business with the stature of AEG-Telefunken with its horizontal and vertical staff movements it is important that a carefully balanced relationship should be maintained between technical and sales sides of the company. This applies too with regard to programmes of further career training in these two spheres.

Of the total staff of AEG-Telefunken in 1970 7,600 workers in the parent company were engaged on research and development, another 15,000 were active in the business side, in the manufacturing

■ LABOUR AFFAIRS

Bayer introduces comprehensive employee training scheme

Hamburg merchants kept up a quaint old custom until the nineteen-twenties: when an apprentice had successfully completed his period of training his seniors would solemnly hand him his bowler hat and cane and pronounce: "Here is your hat and cane, young man - now you are a qualified salesman, sir."

Underneath the surface of this symbolism there lie the static ideas on career training of the good old days: any young man who had completed his apprenticeship had "learnt it all." The only way in which he could add to his skills came from chance experiences picked up in the course of his work.

At a time like the present, when, according to Hermann Kahn, Man's knowledge doubles every ten years such smug self-satisfaction is deadly.

The requirements for career promotion are shifting more distinctly from the regions of the behind and the elbow to the centres of the intellect.

Modern consumer society has raised this criterion for the development of a competitive setup: where incapability for idleness stands in the way of adjustment the career of the individual comes to an end and the rise of the collective follows.

Progressive industrial concerns draw the consequences from recognition of this fact. They neither content themselves with the standardised basic skills that members of their team bring with them from their years of learning, nor rely on the initiative of their workers alone to keep themselves up to date with the latest tricks of their trade and pave their own way for promotion.

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Of the total staff of AEG-Telefunken in 1970 7,600 workers in the parent company were engaged on research and development, another 15,000 were active in the business side, in the manufacturing

branch there were 6,700 and 8,000 worked in administration.

According to the staffing policies at AEG-Telefunken there must be a constant stream of young engineers with university or technical college training coming into the company on the technical side to replace older workers.

In 1970 for example AEG's technical division took on 430 new members of the engineering staff with diplomas and 850 with technical school education. This amounted to 3.4 per cent of the approximately 37,300 people on the AEG-Telefunken payroll.

Those engineers who are more particularly interested in the research and development side of the firm are first of all made familiar with the laboratories attached to the various departments before special duties are assigned to them.

The other engineers who are more inclined towards practical activities within the company are given a year's special training in which they absorb information on how the company is run so that they get to know the work of the various departments within AEG-Telefunken.

Thereafter they can come to an agreement with the departmental heads of the firm on which course their career in the firm should follow.

Experience in the past has shown that by far the greater part of those engineers who decide to work in departments other than research and development have a Fachschule background.

On the sales side, according to Herr Mössner, there is normally a three-year training period. But last year special provisions were set up for those new members of staff who had completed their Abitur (higher school-leaving certificate).

For them the actual years of apprenticeship are cut to two, after which time they take one year of special training designed to school them in special studies such as financing, business management or personnel management.

With regard to the employment and training of staff with an academic background for the sales side AEG-Telefunken has the tendency to prefer the specialist, for example in departments such as accountancy.

In other branches, such as mains generator technology, men with training in business management or engineers with economic training have a good starting position.

The overall further training scheme is based on a tightly-knit system of specialised training for personnel in which all members of the management and senior managerial staff can and should take part.

This further training and specialised training plays a major role in the company particularly in the technical sector. In this sphere it has to be reckoned that

Needless to say not only are the courses considered critically, but also those who take them. This is generally done by means of the course organiser's report since most of the courses do not involve a final examination.

By this means the company builds up an exact picture of the capabilities, talents, shortcomings and potential of each member of staff over a period of time.

Further training and evaluation of employees makes it possible to push them to the limits of their abilities and get the best from them that they have to give. This gives the company the maximum protection against promoting an employee to a position for which he is completely incompetent.

Needless to say these schemes are far from cheap. The further education department at Bayer costs about one million Marks to run. However, Bayer are not prepared to divulge exact figures. In addition to the direct cost of the courses there is the indirect expense of paying the employees while they are not engaged on profitable work.

On the credit side the courses of further training do mean that the general level of skilled workers in the company rises, making Bayer a company run and staffed by experts.

Nor should the goodwill involved be underestimated. Psychologically it is a good thing for the workers to feel that the company is taking care of them and making the best use of their talents. This leads to greater company loyalty.

Probably the writers of a brochure advertising for young new staff members had a similar idea in mind. *Die Welt von Robinson 2000* is the title of this brochure, a world with a great future in a growing industry.

The major company offers the school-leaver with ambitions basic training in a number of walks of life, a comprehensive programme of further training and consequently better and better opportunities for rapid promotion based on a secure position in society from the cradle of his working life to the grave.

But the world of Robinson in the year 2000 will be a world of teamwork. There will be little room for the individualist.

Volker Schröder
(Handelsblatt, 6 April 1971)

AEG-Telefunken's successful staff promotion scheme

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RAILWAYS

Olympic Express paves the way for Bundesbahn's new look

Streamlined, chromium-plated speedsters as fast as lightning and as comfortable as a five-star hotel, as safe as a horse and cart and as inexpensive as any public transport can be. This is how passengers would like rail travel to be and how the Bundesbahn would be only too happy to serve the travelling public in the year 2000.

Roomy, cheerful carriages with comfortable seats at which they can carry on reading the newspapers they started at the breakfast table, broad corridors, colourful decor and trains every few minutes or so - these are the dearest wishes of millions of commuters as they travel to work every morning in depressingly dull, poorly ventilated suburban trains bursting at the seams.

A twelve-man team at Bundesbahn head offices in Munich are not only well aware of the public's wishes, they are working out the details.

The Bundesbahn design centre headed by engineer and architect Emil Schuh has its sights set firmly on what the railways will look like at the end of the century.

The Bundesbahn's back-room boys are architects, mechanical engineers, commercial artists, model-builders and industrial designers. Between them they will be giving the railways such a new look over the next few years that the present rolling stock will look like old-timers.

"The Bundesbahn of the future," Schuh asserts, "will have next to nothing in common with what is at times an admittedly rather depressing present."

The precursors of this new look were the Trans Europ Express diesel locomotives. The TEE trains are now considered to have been the first success of the Bundesbahn design centre, which was set up in 1955.

Emil Schuh, adopted a principle that has been retained to this day. High-speed trains, he decided, must be painted in bright colours. TEE expresses are noted for their gay colours and so will be the design centre's latest brainchild, the ET 403.

This is an express that from the end of May 1972 will travel at speeds of 200 kilometres an hour (125 mph) and is first to be introduced on the Munich-Würzburg-Frankfurt-Bremen run. The distinctive colour of ET 403s will be orange. A final decision has yet to be made on the complementary colours.

The initial idea behind the entire project was the locomotive department's desire for a new and attractive inter-city train. The new service was to be inaugurated in time for the 1972 Munich Olympics and, as it were, the Bundesbahn's contribution to Olympic year and an image-booster of no mean repute.

By the time the design centre was consulted the technical details had already been settled. The ET 403 was to be powered by electric and not diesel traction.

New loco

Designed jointly by Henschel and BBC this prototype diesel-electric locomotive, the DE 2600, which has just put in an appearance at Kassel main station, may not be a speed king (its 2,600 hp are intended to reach a maximum 140 km/h, or 90 mph) but its asynchronous engine, smaller, lighter in weight and requiring less servicing than conventional locomotive engines, has caused a stir and may well be the precursor of a whole new generation of railway rolling stock.

(Photo: Rheinisch, Henschel-Lokomotiven)

tion. It was to include a dining car and not a buffet. It was to equal TEE services in comfort, have covered links between carriages and travel at a cruising speed of 125 miles an hour.

In a nutshell, it was to be fast, comfortable and safe.

These, then, were the specifications to which the designers had to work. They began by making an enormous number of sketches from which the outward appearance of the new train gradually emerged.

Then the draughtsmen took over and made a scale drawing from the sketch and the model-builders built a 20:1 scale model in plasticine (plaster of Paris is also used).

This model is the last opportunity of making major design changes since the next in line, a 5:1 scale model in wood and plastic, is submitted to Bundesbahn administrative headquarters in Frankfurt for final approval or rejection.

"Minor alterations can then be made on request," Emil Schuh says, "but as soon as we get the go-ahead from Frankfurt we start on the blueprints."

The last word is still a long way from having been said, though. The design has to prove itself in practice. A loco works is commissioned to build a full-size prototype corresponding right down to the smallest detail to what will eventually roll off the assembly line.

The prototype is then gone over with a fine-toothed comb since many a shortcoming only comes to light at this stage.

The interior may be unsatisfactory, the seats uncomfortable, their arrangement awkward (passengers keep getting in each other's way) and the view poor (windows too high up).

The communication cord may prove difficult to reach, the lighting either too feeble or too glaring. The driver's dashboard may be badly arranged or his vision impeded.

As far as the decor is concerned nothing but TEE comfort is good enough, but the futuristic exterior of the ET 403 (its bow is shaped like a shark's snout) renders an unimaginative copy of TEE styling impossible.

"We need new ideas," Herr Schuh says, the seats will have different upholstery, the bar will have a new design of buffet, and the dining car a newly-developed kitchen. Table tops, curtains and carpets will also differ from those of the Trans Europ Express.

Even so, the ET 403 is no more a complete newcomer than any other Bundesbahn train. "The days when railway companies even had their own upholstery

material woven for the sake of their image are over and done with," Emil Schuh comments. "For reasons of rationalisation we use standard fittings."

In other words, if manufacturers produce suitable fittings that are approved by the Bundesbahn new trains may well, for instance, have light switches that can be found elsewhere.

The new look began in Europe with the introduction of TEE expresses. It is now extending to long-distance domestic express services and it will not be long before the effect is felt on normal routes.

"Dirt and rust are things of the past for today's railways," Schuh reckons. A brighter, friendlier Bundesbahn with even suburban routes boasting brightly-coloured carriages is heralded by the new concept for suburban services in Cologne, Frankfurt and Munich.

The new local trains are no longer dull, dark and green, gradually becoming dirty, even duller and unattractive greyish-black. The gloom that characterised an entire century of the great iron way has given way to blue in Munich, claret in Frankfurt and orange in Cologne.

The colours of run-of-the-mill trains in this country are still determined by the steam locomotive age, now past history. Steam made visions of bright and cheerful colours illusory but the last steam locomotives are now museum-pieces.

Bundesbahn chief designer Schuh feels the time has now come for a new railway image. "We visualise the trains of the future not as dirty grey worms wending their way through the landscape but as silver arrows in stainless steel and aluminium alloy with flashes down the side for aerodynamic and safety reasons."

The flashes he means are corrugations in the sheet metal that in aviation, for instance, were a hallmark of the Junkers 52, a legendary passenger and cargo aircraft that was one of the most reliable aeroplanes ever to fly.

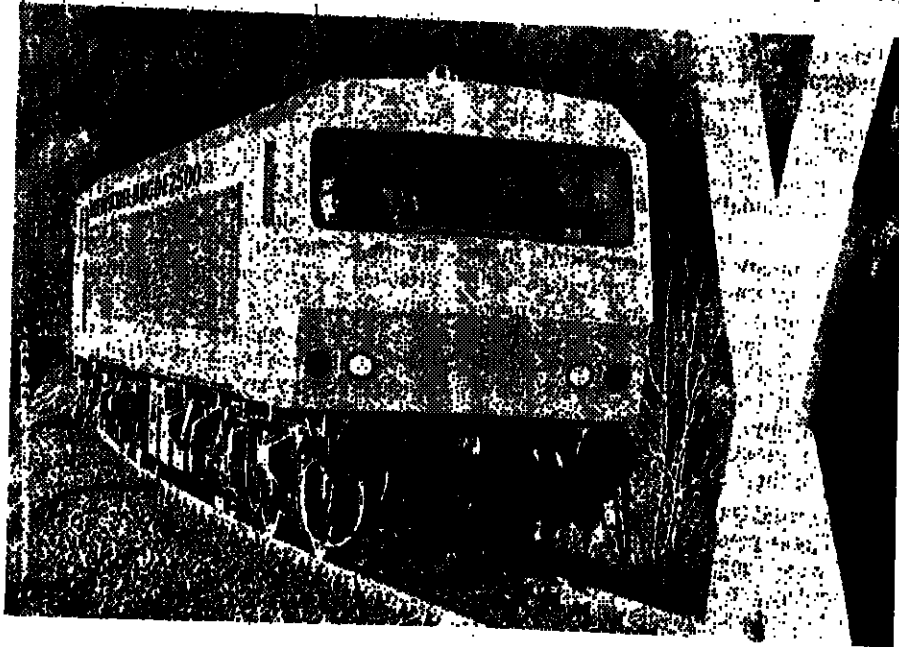
"Only the window-frames and the roofs will be painted. The overall silver will underline the uniformity of the train as a whole. "Now that rust is a thing of the past for the railways we no longer need to be sparing with silver paint," Schuh notes.

It remains to be seen when the first Silver Arrow will take final shape. "We can get to work in no time at all," Herr Schuh says. "It is merely a question of money when the normal train is given the new look."

The ET 403 has fixed deadlines, though. The first complete train is scheduled for delivery at the end of this year. Three of them are to work the Munich-Bremen run as soon as the 1972 summer timetable comes into force.

The ET 403 consists of three passenger carriages and a dining car, is 108 metres long, air-conditioned, first-class only and seats 184. To set eyes on it is to realise that the Bundesbahn did well to employ Emil Schuh and his Munich design staff.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 April 1971)



Medical exam for licence holders

Social Democrat Dr Hans Apel, man of the Bundestag transport committee, has come out in favour of driving licences for a limited period of time. Licence-holders ought, he feels, be made to take a medical every ten years. At present a driving licence is valid for life.

"In view of the drastic increase in the number of traffic accidents it is high time that not only their vehicles but also drivers be subjected to regular tests," Dr Apel says. He also supports the idea of an immediate examination in which motorists must be made to demonstrate proficiency.

Karl Heinz Lemmrich, Opponent transport specialist, is said to have approved of the medical too. He is in favour of a proficiency test, the favour of a proficiency test, the favour of a proficiency test, the favour of a proficiency test.

"Someone who has been driving for years knows well enough how to handle a car," he comments.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 5 April 1971)

AEG-Telefunken

Continued from page 11

technical knowledge in many difficult aspects may be completely renewed every seven years or so.

An important part of these courses further schooling and specialised training involves information for technical staff which is essential for them to be able to give a comprehensive approach to the tasks they have to perform at technical or sales side.

Taking as his example a seminar concerning company costing policies, technical managerial staff members, Mössner demonstrated by means of subjects "calculation of results and capital profitability," "cost-trolling by means of analyses of costs and calculation of industrial management" what great efforts are being taken to give the heads of various departments and leaders of various expert workers constant schooling and cost awareness.

These efforts to promote schemes for further career training and specialised schooling for company employees have been complemented since last year by an interesting improvement in the system of promotions within the company.

There has been a far greater concentration on looking no further than the company premises for staff for promotion to leading positions. This scheme, which Herr Mössner says has worked well from the outset, means that when a high position is to be filled in a company AEG-Telefunken will only advertise for a replacement outside the company if there is no one already in their employ who is suitable for promotion to the position vacant.

Anyone in the company can apply for the promotion as long as he feels capable of meeting the demands of the job. His superiors are only informed of his application if and when his name has been placed on the shortlist.

This system can help young, vigorous and ambitious employees to achieve promotion. According to experienced ready gained employees with the AEG can rise to a good sales position after five or six years, what is known as "middle management". On the technical side those employees who have reached their mid-thirties may well have achieved the rank of laboratory head.

(DIE WELT, 10 April 1971)

MARITIME AFFAIRS
N tonnage
nears 10-million
ton mark

This country's merchant navy, after virtually ceasing to exist after the Second World War, has since grown into a fleet of some 120 seagoing vessels with a total gross registered tonnage of more than 7.7 million.

The mere idea of any such development was out of the question until the so-called Second Petersberg Agreement of 3 April 1951 in which the Western Allies agreed to lift all restrictions imposed on the shipbuilding industry.

By the terms of the Washington Agreement of April 1949 this country was only allowed to build vessels of up to 7,200 tons and a maximum twelve knots.

Since when the Federal Republic's merchant navy has become a force to be reckoned with both on the seven seas and in the country's economy.

More than half a million people work in shipping and the merchant navy comes ninth in the world shipping stakes. The 1939 figure of 4.5 million gross registered tons has been boosted to little short of 7.8 million GRT.

Over the same period of time the world's merchant tonnage has increased from 69 million to more than 210 million GRT but notwithstanding this threefold increase this country's seagoing vessels are not older than ten years on average and the larger units are a good deal younger and consequently up-to-the-minute technologically speaking.

In 1945 only 85,000 GRT of the

pre-war four and a half million were left afloat. The German merchant navy was pretty well back to square one.

The Petersberg Agreement came just in time for shipbuilding and shipping in this country to join in, in part at least, the boom in tonnage requirements occasioned by Korea.

The number of units completed increased from 184 in 1950 to 227 in 1952 and turnover told the same story, increasing from 414 million to 999 million Marks over the same period.

Despite far-reaching difficulties occasioned by international competition the investment quotient of shipbuilding in this country during the fifties was above average for industry as a whole.

Even so, total investments amounted to no more than 7,500 million Marks, largely because up till the beginning of 1965 public loans amounted to a mere 1,100 million and subsidies to a mere 141 million Marks.

By the time shipyards have finished work on vessels on order as of mid-March this year (209 units with a total tonnage of 2.8 million GRT) the merchant navy will for the first time have passed the ten-million-ton mark.

Bodo Höhne

(NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG, 2 April 1971)

Containers knock freighters

The changes in merchant shipping resulting from the triumphant progress of container freighters are considerable. According to the Institute of Shipping in Bremen 212 vessels will cater for container traffic by 1973/74 and 847 conventional freighters be withdrawn from service.

On long routes the ratio of container to conventional freighters will be not one to four but one to six and even one to seven and a half.

North Sea ports must cooperate to counter the competition

An attack on the policies of ports on the North Sea coast has been launched by landlubbers, but this is no reason for disregarding it. Indeed, it weighs in with powerful criticism.

For one it is the work of Duisburg chamber of commerce and industry and Duisburg is a major inland port. Also, the criticism is written from a distance and critics from another part of the country are less likely to see matters through the egoistic, pettifogging spectacles of a coastal observer.

The Chamber makes no bones about what it calls the short-sighted spirit of local competition between North Sea ports that ought to be abandoned in favour of genuine cooperation within a nation-wide framework.

This, of course, hits the nail on the head. Competition for every ton of cargo continues to this day to rage rampant between the Hanseatic ports of Bremen and Hamburg.

Shipowners in the two cities have long since buried the hatchet and cooperated

even to the point of mergers (Hapag of Hamburg and Lloyd of Bremen, for instance).

Port authorities are still at daggers drawn, though, and certainly most suspicious of each other's motives. And this applies not only to Bremen and Hamburg but also to other ports on the Baltic and North Sea coasts.

This competition leads to enormous sums of money being invested in development projects in the individual ports that occasionally, although the fact is never admitted, prove to have been money thrown down the drain.

When the one unveils plans to build a new container centre the other is quick to follow suit. When the one decides to build a new deep-water port for super-tankers and the like the other promptly launches a similar project.

The men responsible really ought to realise that this kind of old-style egoism is old hat. The two major competitors to the west, Rotterdam and Antwerp, already closely cooperate and other competitors are already looming on the horizon in the shape of Dunkirk, Le Havre and Mediterranean ports.

The trend towards large-scale operations and mergers is, when all is said and done, characteristic of this day and age even though some of the repercussions may be regrettable.

It is certainly not a trend that will stop short at state boundaries on the North Sea coast of this country. The sooner all concerned agree to cooperate and join forces in a sensible division of labour the better.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 April 1971)

Frankfurter Allgemeine
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■ OUR WORLD

Birds are top pets

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Dogs, particularly Alsatians, are the most popular pets for the home. But according to a survey carried out recently in this country, dogs are followed closely by horses and cats. But this report does not accord with the true facts of the matter. In reality the bird is the most popular pet in this country.

At one time the canary was the most popular species of bird for the home. But the budgerigar has now taken pride of place. It has been estimated that between four and five million budgies are kept as pets by people here according to figures supplied by the central organization for pet shops in this country. The organization reported that "exact figures about pets in this country are not available and are unlikely to be available."

But the exact number of parakeets is known, because each bird must have clipped to its claw an official ring which can only be obtained from a shop dealing in birds and animals of zoological interest.

There are also reliable statistics for the number of dogs kept as pets in this country. It is estimated that there are between three and 3.5 million. These figures can be obtained from local tax offices because owners have to apply for dog licences. The licence is the main reason why so many people do not have a dog in the home, according to the pet shops association. A spokesman for the association said: "Recently several Federal states have come to the conclusion that a healthy income can be earned from dog licences and it has been proposed, in North Rhine-Westphalia for instance, to increase the cost of the licence fairly considerably."

The truth of the matter is that the state government has recently circulated local governments to impose the same cost for a dog licence, which, according to the guidelines suggested invariably means an increase.

In Düsseldorf a dog licence costs 50 Marks per annum. In Bavaria, where the dog licence is only 30 Marks per year for each dog, more dogs are kept as pets in Munich than in any other large city in this country. Officialdom is loathe to



Grzimek to stay

Although there have been suggestions to the contrary Professor Barnhard Grzimek intends to remain director of the Frankfurt Zoo which he has made so famous. He has done a great deal to increase public interest in the bird and animal world, appearing often as here, on television, with some of his favourite animal friends.

(Photo: Archiv/Upa)

increase the costs so drastically for dog licences in Bavaria since it would be a most unpopular move with the public. Such an increase would rise a storm similar to that which would blow up if beer was made dearer.

Another factor to the diminishing number of dogs kept as pets is that so many landlords make provisos in rental contracts that animals may not be kept as pets on the premises. In Britain, according to the pet shopkeepers association, there are far more dogs kept as pets than in the Federal Republic.

Cats lose their hold

As regards cats the figures are only very rough. It has always been generally believed that as many cats as dogs have been kept as pets. According to this view, then, there are about three million pussy cats in this country.

But cats among animal lovers in this country are rapidly being overtaken in favour by hamsters and guinea-pigs. They are modest creatures and easy to keep and are particularly loved by small children.

Among rodents Asian squirrels and brown squirrels have turned out to be popular. Pet shop owners are incapable of satisfying the demand. These creatures are also easy to look after and they are also not liable to taxes.

Dog lovers continue to complain that they alone among animal lovers are obliged to pay for licences for their pets. They argue that these taxes restrict the number of dogs that people will keep as pets. (Last year the licences raised in the whole of the Federal Republic 53 million Marks.) They point out that a horse owner, and a horse is a far greater luxury, keeps his animal tax- and licence-free. Because of the restrictions imposed on dogs kept as pets — the cost of licences, limitations imposed on taking the dog for a run in cities and certain intolerance among the general public — animal lovers in this country prefer canaries, rodents and tortoisés.

Last year was a good year business-wise for petshop owners. According to estimates made by the pet shop owners association there was in this business sector a total turnover of approximately 1.5 milliard Marks. But included in these figures are the figures for sales of animal foods and like all businesses dealing in foods last year was an excellent year and showed increases.

A spokesman for the pet shop keepers association said: "The ups and downs of the business are an indication of prosperity. The boom in the business started in the second half of the sixties."

The boom in the pet shop business has helped along the more than 1,200 shops in this country. In 1962 Karstadt in Cologne added a pet shop department. (Karstadt is a giant chain of department stores in the Federal Republic.) In 1967 the mail order house of Neckermann started selling budgerigars, canaries and parrots. Other mail order businesses such as Quelle and Gustav Schickedanz quickly followed suit offering dogs such as dachshunds, poodles, cocker spaniels and Alsatians. These animals were sold insured and adequately injected against rabies. The Otto mail order house went so far as to offer miniature donkeys, as a special advertising trick.

Peter Espe
(Handelsblatt, 16 April 1971)

Money need

One person in four in this country is dissatisfied with his or her financial situation, according to a survey commissioned by the Federal government.

Announcing the details in Kiel Social Democratic party manager Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski noted that old age pensioners and farmers appear to be most dissatisfied.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 7 April 1971)

NEWS IN BRIEF

The third year it

Statistically speaking the divorce rate is a thing of the past. The number of divorces occur in the year of marriage.

According to the Federal Statistical Office of Wiesbaden divorce is on the increase. In 1969 some 7,000 marriages were granted — 47 per cent more than in 1968.

The lowest number occurred in the year of marriage, where there were twenty divorces in the past, the highest in for Ron Davis of Southampton. It was to remain an

Adultery and separation are less common as grounds for divorce. In 1969 more than 92 per cent of divorces were granted in view of the out of other marital shortcomings. According to Paragraph 43 of the Marriage Act dealing with dishonour or immoral conduct in wedlock.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 4 April)

The Pill compul

Forgetfulness will no longer be a cause of unwanted children. The contraceptive pill can be used as a reliable method of birth control.

The computer, featured in the issue of the *Mittelmeer Medizinische Wochenschrift*, looks like a normal alarm clock.

But it has a twenty-four hour system that continues to emit visual signals until a pill is taken. The computer can also be programmed to cater for days on which the user not wish to take the Pill.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 April)

Grass growth

Amateur gardeners with lawns can now go on holiday without worrying that on their return they may have to scythe the grass down to size.

A horticulturist in Elmshorn, near Hamburg, intend shortly to market a preparation that will stop grass growing for three to five weeks.

The manufacturers are expecting customers to join the ranks of the regular mowing lawns in public parks and green spaces.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 5 April)

Mr Spare Time

Herr Schlapp Schlapp is the key to a nation-wide leisure campaign recently inaugurated by Minister Käthe Strobel.

Schlapp Schlapp's advice is not waste spare time but to get some time of it. He has a hundred suggestions for something to do in a spare hour free of charge from the Information Centre in Cologne.

The idea is, Käthe Strobel says, to spare time more fun. Everyday life is serious enough and activities to offset increasingly one-sided strain and stress in industrial society are badly needed.

The hundred hints start off with children's games — marbles, ball games, cowboys and Indians, kite-flying, and picnics.

This year the Ministry of Health allocated 1.5 million Marks for campaign.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 March 1971)

SPORT

Federal League football could well take a leaf out of England's book

Alan Evans' transfer to Liverpool netted Wolverhampton Wanderers a cool £100,000, enough to make football managers' faces pale in this country. No club here could even think of paying 870,000 Marks for a player. Neither Franz Beckenbauer nor Gerd Müller would be likely to cost that much. Clubs in this country do not have that sort of money to spare anyway. Yet Evans' transfer fee was by no means a record for England, where higher transfers have been recorded in the past, the highest in for Ron Davis of Southampton. It was to remain an

Forest, for instance, sign on thirteen- and fourteen-olds who show signs of promise. "If they live up to expectations they are enlisted as full professionals. It is, of course, a risky business. The youngster may come to realise that he cannot earn a living as a professional footballer and will have lost several years jobwise."

"As a junior the club pay him pocket money and a club has fifteen to twenty such youngsters. The English player has to work his way up. His opposite number in this country has too easy a time of it in many respects."

"In England the player is paid a reasonable salary. There is little in the way of hole-and-corner arrangements."

Promising youngsters in this country are not allowed to become full professionals until they are eighteen. Beforehand they play as amateurs in an amateur environment that is hardly designed to challenge them to the full.

Much time is wasted. As a rule it takes two years for a German youngster to progress from the first team hard core to the lower echelons of the Federal league standardwise. A combination of English and German methods could be the ideal answer.

Why are there no English trainers in football in this country? "There are no trainers as we know them in England," Bechmann says. "The manager sets the pace and the trainer does what he is told."

"I reckon a man of the calibre of Bill Shankly of Liverpool would do well in this country but it is very hard to convert from one system to the other. Take Bert Trautmann, for instance."

In Münster and Rüsselsheim he tried to adopt English training methods (and who better to do the job than Trautmann

after fifteen years or so at the top as a player in England?) but put the players' backs up in next to no time.

English teams occasionally prove a disappointment on the Continent but this is usually due to unfortunate timing. Liverpool, Burnley, Arsenal and Coventry, say, generally play friendlies on the Continent either at the beginning or the end of the season. They are either not yet in form or have passed their peak. In mid-season they hardly have time for encounters of this kind.

England takes a dim view of the custom in this country of allowing the home club to pocket the entire gate. Gate money is split according to a complicated system the upshot of which is that the visitors take home slightly more than a quarter and slightly less than a third of the takings.

The advantage is that an attractive team is rewarded accordingly, which is not the case in this country. What does Bayern Munich stand to gain from a capacity crowd in Kaiserslautern? The club does not earn a cent even though its stars — Beckenbauer, Müller & Co. — are the men who pull the crowds in and account for the capacity crowd.

Tickets cost between two and twelve Marks, which is a good deal less than the prices charged in this country. English clubs, of course, have a less expensive

offer, though, because his club were not interested in selling at any price. The financial position of English clubs is different, and above all easier to assess. Liverpool saved money by signing Evans' transfer cheque — tax, and a not inconsiderable amount, too. There is no overall tax on English clubs, merely a tax on profits should there be a profit on the books at the end of the financial year. If too much money is left over at the end of the year a transfer involving appropriate expenditure cuts back on profits and reduces the tax payable. Would this not be a promising idea for this country's Federal league?

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"English professionals put in less time training than their opposite numbers in this country but work harder when they do. The result is that they are fitter, tougher and harder with themselves. And they are better at heading the ball too. Bert Vogts is the sort of thing I mean. But he is an exception in this country."

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Bert Vogts, one of this country's top stars to meet English standards

(Photo: Nordbild)

time of it, not least because they pay less in taxation.

The club usually owns its own ground, too, and does not have to pay rent like Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Mönchengladbach, for instance.

On the other hand an English club would never think of asking the local authority for assistance. Football is a business, and a tough one. "Many Federal league players would not stand an earthly on the other side of the Channel," Bachmann reckons.

Herbert Windecker

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 April 1971)

International soccer dates

Three international fixture dates have been fixed over the next three seasons by the Federal Republic Football League (DFB).

Mexico has accepted 8 September 1971, the date proposed by the DFB for the return match after a goalless draw on 22 December 1968 in Mexico City.

An encounter with Switzerland in this country on 29 April 1972 has been agreed. The last of 38 matches so far between the two countries took place on 17 April 1968 in Basle and was also a goalless draw.

This date has also been named by UEFA, the European football body, as the date of the first leg of the European championship quarter-finals.

Should either or both countries reach the quarter-finals the fixture will be postponed until 15 November 1972.

Bulgaria has accepted a DFB invitation to play this country on 12 May 1973. At the same time Bulgaria agreed to a fixture between its Olympic team and this country's in this country on 7 September next.

(DIE WELT, 17 April 1971)

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